MIRDHA): (a) and (b) 109 medium and 129 major irrigation projects. Of these, 43 medium schemes and 23 major schemes are of Maharashtra State.

(c) The observations made by the Central appraising agencies need to be satisfactorily replied to by the State Governments prior to clearance, in addition to clearnce, where necessary, from the environmental angle and under the Forest (Conservation) Act.

Supply of Super Computer by the U.S.A.

638. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. has given any assurance about upgradation of the Super Computer being supplied to India presently or export of new model in future, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what terms and conditions have been laid down by the U.S. for the transfer of the Super Computer and what assurances have been given by India; and

(c) whether U S personnel will be deputed at the installed site for maintenance of the Super Computer and if so, the exact arrangement about their presence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Governments of India and USA have agreed to consult regularly to ensure that US Super Computer exports to India reflect the rapid pace of advancing technology and India's need for upgraded capability.

(b) As provided for under the Indo-US Memorandum of Understanding on technology transfer, the terms and conditions for the release of a Super Computer to India relate mainly to end-use, security and non-transferability.

(c) Indian and US technical experts (employees of the US manufacturer of the Super Computer) will provide guidance for maintaining the Super Computer. The manufacturer will perform the maintenance of the main Super Computer for a stipulated time period, in accordance with the contract to be concluded with the US manufacturer.

Hong Kong Residents of Indian Origin

639. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hong Kong residents of Indian origin have been reassured by China about their future in regard to their extensive business interests, once the British colony goes back to the Chinese main-land Government; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Sino British Joint Declaration on the question of Hong Kong, signed in December, 1984, envisages that the current social and economic system in Hong Kong will remain unchanged as will the lifestyle, for a period of 50 years after China resumes sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997. There are approximately 20,000 persons of Indian origin resident in Hong Kong and mostly engaged in business. Per-

sons other than Chinese nationals would also be permitted the right of abode in Hong Kong under the provisions of the Declaration.

Regional Agreement on Nuclear Arms Race with Pakistan

640. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Foreign Minister during a recent Seminar (September-October, 1987) conducted by the Pakistan Institute of Strategic Studies had put forward a suggestion for some sort of a regional agreement between India and Pakistan for arresting a nuclear arms race in this region;

(b) if so, what was the precise suggestion made by the Pak Foreign Minister; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The then Pakistan Foreign Minister made some suggestions of a bilateral and regional nature on the issue of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in South-Asia. His statement found wide publicity in our Press of the 2nd September, 1987.

(c) Government are of the view that there can be no bilateral or regional solution to the dangers of nuclear proliferation This is a global issue which can be only tackled globally. Moreover, the statement goes ill with Pakistan's single-minded drive to acquire nuclear weapons.

Supply of U.S. Missiles to Pakistan

641. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:
SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest U.S. decision to supply more A.I.M. 9 L Side winder missiles and submarine-launched Harpoon missiles to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up this matter with the U S.; and

(c) how does the latest supply to Pak affect our defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have conveyed to the US Administration that the supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan compels India to divert scarce resources from development to defence and leads to an unnecessary arms race in the subcontinent.

(c) India's defence preparedness remains high to face any threat to her security.

Agreement with U.S. for Transfer of Technology for LCA Project

642. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI S S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India have entered into an agreement with the U.S. to